Coal with the officials of CIL/DCC, the State Government of West Bengal and representatives of trade Unions. To alimited extent market of gas has been identified with Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and further efforts are being made to augment supply to GCGSC. Market for the solid products and chemicals have also been identified by CIL. As a result of the marketing strategies adopted, there has been improvement in cash realisation from sale since 1992-93.

2065. SHRI RATNABAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of people including workers employees and their dependents in Pashok, Vah-Tukvar and Putong Tea Estates in Darjeeling under the TTCI are Starving due to non-payment of their wages and salaries and non-distribution of ration for months together;

(b) the reason for Government lingering the process of sale of these gardens to private parties; and

(c) what steps Government intend to take to save the starving people till the deals are settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: (a) There has been some outstanding salary/wages/ration etc. of workers in respect of Pashok, Vah-Tukvar and Potong Tea Estates in Darjeeling owned by TTCI in view of the fact that TTCI is facing acute financial crunch on account of the consistent losses suffered by the gardens owned by the Corporation. Monthly income generated by these gardens has not been sufficient to meet the expenditure on account of salaries/wages/ration etc. of workers.

(b) and (c) Government is keen to complete the process of sale of the gardens as early as possible. However, there has been some difficulty in completing the sale process of the gardens owned by TTCI on account of legal proceedings and other constraints. All possible steps are being taken to expedite the sale process.

Managment of TTCI has been advised to take all necessary measures to ensure that till the sale process is completed, manufacturing activities at the gardens are continued to the maximum extent feasible to ensure generation of adequate surpluses to meet the liabilities on account of dues of workers etc.

Cases in Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

2066. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases disposed of by Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and by Dibrugarh and Guwahati District forums since their inception;

(b) the number of cases pending before the said CDRC and the two forums;

(c) the amount spent by Government on the said CDRC and two Forums since their inception. Forum-wise and year-wise break up; and

(d) the number of cases decided by the said CDRC appealed against and disposed/pending before National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission during the last three years; year-wise breakup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The required information is given in the attached statements I, II and III

Statement-I

Position as on 30.9.1995

	No. of Cases Disposed of	No. of cases pending
State Commission, Assam.	138	237
Districk Forum Kamrup Guwahati.	1445	492
District Forum Dibrugarh	26	77

Statement-II

Amount spent by the CDRC and two Districk Forums

Year	State Commission	District Forum Guwahati	District Forum Dibrugarh
1992-93	Rs.3.90,654/-	Rs.60,000/-	Rs.51,000/-
1994-95	Rs.2,15,700/-	Rs.1,10,700/-	Rs.45,000/-
1995-96	Rs.2,67,600/-	Rs.81,500/-	Rs.34,500/-

Statement-III

Appeals/Revision Petitions Instituted against the Order of the State Commision of Assam during last three years:

Year	No. of Appeals/ Revision Petitons Instituted	No. of Appeals/ Revision Petitions Decided	Cases No. Appeals/Revision Petitions Pending
1993	9	4	5
1994	10	2	8
1995	13	4	9

देश में खेतिहर मजदूरों की संख्या

2067. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में कृषि मजदूरों की संख्या जो वर्ष 1951 में 27.4 मिलियन थी, बढ़कर वर्ष 1991 में 74.6 मिलियन हो गई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1980 में खेतिहर मजदूरों के हितों के संरक्षण हेतु केन्द्रीय स्तर-पर एक व्यापक कानून पारित करने का आश्वासन दिया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण श्रम आयोग ने भी सरकार से यह सिफारिश की थी कि खेतिहर मजदूरों के हितों के संरक्षण हेतु एक कानून बनाए जाने की आवश्यकता है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस दिशा में कोई प्रभावी कार्रवाई की है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है;

श्रम मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) जी, हां।